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ABSTRACT

Studies conducted in the 1960s (Aldous and Hill, 1969) examining the quality of life in families based on their affective and financial resources identified the childbearing stage and the stage when adolescents were present as especially stressful periods. Findings from the 1978 Quality of American Life survey (Campbell and Converse, 1980) were compared with results from these earlier studies using analogous quality of life indicators and dividing subjects into seven life cycle stages: (1) newly established marriages (N=143); (2) childbearing families (N=221); (3) families with school-aged children (N=309); (4) families with adolescents (N=181); (5) families with young adult children (N=306); (6) postparental families (N=300); and (7) aging families (N=178). The 1978 results were similar to earlier studies in that, on indicators of both sentimental and instrumental resources, older couples tended to be more content and persons in the childrearing years reported being statistically significantly less satisfied than other groups. The most striking difference between the results of the 1969 and the 1978 studies was the perception of 1978 couples in newly established marriages of fewer expressive and financial resources. This finding suggests that couples in new marriages who stay married and have children may lack the build-up of resources in this first stage that could buffer the loss of financial and sentimental assets in the child-present stages. A comparison of groups differing on occupation, gender, wife's employment, and the presence of husbands within stages helped to specify which groups were particularly liable to instrumental and expressive deficits and surpluses in which stages. References, tables and figures are attached. An appendix gives the operationalization of the study variables. (NB)

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The Quality of Life Over the Family Life Cycle

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CG 018984

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The Quality of Life Over the Family Life Cycle

Some fifteen years ago, one of us (Aldous) along with Reuben Hill looked at various indicators of how families fared over time (Aldous and Hill, 1969). Through looking at what the literature had to say about families' relative well being with respect to affective and financial resources, we pinpointed periods of particular stress, the child-bearding stage and the stage where adolescents were present. It was the historical era of the "War on Poverty." Our goal was to encourage government intervention during these periods, which turned out to be the child bearing and adolescent stages. The government was actively attempting to improve the lot of needy families and seeking ways to do it most expeditiously.

Much has happened over the ensuing years and we are now in an era in which governmental initiatives with respect to aiding families economically are discouraged. However, the concern with change over the family life cycle continues unabated as shown by studies dealing with marital satisfaction (Rollins and Cannon, 1974; Schram, 1979), economic security (Axion and Levin, 1979), household division of labor (Model, 1982); marital communication (Olson and McCubbin, 1983:104); and perception of equity in marital role performance (Schafer and Keith, 1981).

This paper represents a continuation of that tradition, and like the 1969 publication focuses on the quality of life in families based on their affective and financial resources. The paper's purpose is to compare the findings from a 1978 survey with comparable results from the studies

done more than a decade earlier and summarized in the 1969 article. The present paper like its predecessor focuses on differences among the stages seen as discrete entities. The available data do not permit an examination of a continuous family development model with its emphasis on transitions. But the present paper builds upon the family life cycle research done in the interim by taking account of some of the criticisms of the family development approach that have been made. (Nock, 1979; Spanier, Sauer and Larzelere, 1979; Klein and Aldous, 1979).

We control for such possible confounding variables as male occupational status, gender of respondent and whether the wife in the family is a housewife or employed outside the home. The data also allow comparisons of single parent families with two parent families in appropriate stages. This comparison uses family cycle stages to categorize relevant material from heads of non-traditional families often not covered in family development analyses. However, one of the major weaknesses in much of such research is not remedied in this paper. The data set is cross-sectional and not longitudinal. For this reason, the findings are only suggestive as to the quality of life families in various states experienced in past stages or will experience in future stages.

The data came from the Quality of American Life survey conducted by Campbell and Converse in 1978 (Campbell and Converse, 1980). The nation-wide probability sample was composed of males and females eighteen years of age and older. From their responses, we created seven family life cycle stages similar to those used in previous analyses (Aldous, 1978; Spanier and Sauer, 1979). These stages, the characteristics and N's of respondents in them appear in Table 1

Table 1 About here

The sample is composed of respondents in their first marriages and of female single parents who are divorced, separated or never married. Due to small N's in other groups, it includes only white respondents. Those in their marriages in each stage differed significantly from other families on marital duration and age of respondent as shown in Table 2.

Table 2 About Here

The quality of life indicators that we used were ones analogous to those used in the 1969 article. To get at families' expressive (positive sentiment) resources in Table 1 in the Aldous-Hill article, we used the reports of the respondents on the following indicators: marital satisfaction; spousal companionship; understanding of spouse; and spouse's understanding of respondent. To get at their feelings about their families, we also looked at respondents' satisfaction with their family life.

Their views concerning family instrumental resources and objective measures of it, (Tables 2 and 3 in the Aldous-Hill article) were tapped by the following indicators: income per family member residing at home; frequency of couple disagreements about spending; the extent to which they ever worried about money; their satisfaction with their housing; and satisfaction with their families' standard of living. The operationalization of indicators appears in the Appendix.

On the basis of recent studies, we hypothesized that, as was true in

the literature reviewed in the 1969 article, the child present stages would be the most difficult years for the respondents. This should hold true in the analyses based on the total sample as well as for the divisions we made within it. These include occupational status, gender of respondent and wives' employment--divisions where all the stage categories across family time were meaningful. We did not distinguish among the child present stages as occurred in the 1968 article. Our analyses, however, permit us to make such distinctions if they appear. Compared with families in other stages, families in the child-rearing stages experience heavy drains on financial and sentimental resources. Women were more likely to continue in the labor market in the 1970's than a decade earlier when the earlier article appeared. Still, there was attrition of wife-mothers from the labor force due to child rearing, decreasing the available finances in formerly dual-earner families. Even dual-earner families would have to divide their incomes among more persons. As a consequence, money worries, spending disagreements and less satisfaction with the standard of living should be more prevalent in the stages where the presence of children means lower income per family member. With expanding families and growing children, residential units too can become inadequate, creating dissatisfaction in this area.

But, one might argue that persons in the retirement stage of marriage necessarily experience a drop in income per family member. They too, along with families with children present should show unhappiness with financial resources. Families rearing children, however, are less likely to possess the sentimental resources of those who have survived to the last stage of family duration. Although the coming of

children may not create a crisis, it does represent the addition of parental to marital roles. The two sets of roles can compete for time as well as for financial resources.

As children become older, socialization and social control tasks can create stress for parents, depleting emotional resources. Having to prepare the children for independence through their social placement in advanced education, occupation and marriage complicates the life of parents with adolescents. Studies summarized in the earlier article included this period along with the child-bearing period as the times families are most needy of outside assistance to supplement depleted monetary resources. We believe that the demands made on family financial and emotional capacities are at their highest during the "families with adolescents' " years. Thus, the present results should indicate the least satisfaction in families currently experiencing this period. As young adults leave home, the quality of family life should increase.

We hypothesize that respondents will report their greatest satisfaction in the child-free periods of beginning marriage and after the spouses have retired. These are both periods when there are only the spouses to draw upon monetary and sentimental capital. Moreover, in the case of retirement, jobs no longer compete with spouses for time and energy. We assume that in the aging families persons are happy to retire back to their spouses and do not feel left at loose ends with the loss of job routines.

This posited curvilinear relation between the sequence of family stages and reported satisfaction on the indicators should be more evident

among females, Blue Collar males and full-time housewives. Women as opposed to men, and housewives as opposed to employed women, have fewer alternatives to family roles. They would be more caught up in the strengths and stresses associated with the various stages. Blue Collar workers, analogously, with their generally lower incomes, should be more subject to financial deficits and the resultant strains during these stages than White Collar workers.

Within the child-present stages, we hypothesize that female household heads will be less satisfied than married women. Single parents lack the buffer a partner provides for the care of children (Hetherington and Camara, 1984). Moreover, the generally lower wages female household heads earn or their dependence on welfare sharpens the financial strains of these years.

To determine whether the scores on indicators differed significantly over the life cycle stages within particular status groups, we used analysis of variance. We also used t-tests to determine whether the scores within particular stages differed significantly in status groups compared on gender, male occupation, wives' employment and maternal marital status.

Findings

The family development findings are of two kinds. The first looks at differences in the dependent variables across the stages of families regardless of particular characteristics. We then compare families in the

same stage who differ on such characteristics as gender of respondent, socioeconomic status of the husband-fathers and the employment status of wife-mothers. The N's vary within categories in the various stages, as with Blue Collar and White Collar workers in the retirement stage. Where findings are based on small samples, tentative interpretations are warranted.

Satisfaction Across Stages

Sentimental Expressive Resources: Let us begin with stage findings concerning sentimental-expressive resources from the total sample of presently married respondents. On the various indicators, aged couples, as hypothesized, tended to be more content. In contrast, also as hypothesized, persons in the child-rearing years reported themselves as statistically significantly less satisfied. These years of lessened sentimental resources whether in marital satisfaction, spousal companionship, understanding of spouse, spouse's understanding of respondent, or family satisfaction held generally for respondents in the initial child-bearing period until the stage with respondents whose children were beginning to leave home.

What we had not hypothesized was the non-significant difference between childless respondents in the first years of marriage and those in the child-present periods. Although the first stage respondents generally had somewhat higher scores than the child-present respondents on the various indicators, this was not true of satisfaction with life in general. Respondents whose oldest child was a pre-schooler were happier than persons in the first stage on this indicator. Persons in the middle years

(Stage 6) also had more sentimental resources than persons in their first years of marriage as well as those with preschoolers and primary school-aged children. With respect to spousal companionship and spousal understanding they also were more satisfied than were persons in the launching stage. Persons in the child-bearing period responded with the lowest scores of all on all the sentimental resourceindicators except for family satisfaction. None of these results were statistically significant.

The results when the sample is divided on gender, class and married female respondents' employment status tend to follow the same pattern over the family stages. On spousal companionship, male respondents who were over 64 did significantly more things with their wives than did men in the child-present stages. This was also true of men in the middle years compared with those whose children were leaving home, the lowest point for men doing things with spouses. Female respondents and housewives also did more things with husbands when retired than their counterparts with pre-schoolers, and, among White Collar males, persons in the first stage of marriage scored significantly higher on companionship than did males with adolescents at home.

The presence of young children appeared to be especially hard on beliefs that respondents understood their spouses as compared with the reports of respondents in the middle and retirement years of marriage. This was true of males, females, housewives and Blue Collar males. Among males as a group, men in the first stage also reported lower scores on their spouses understanding than did men in the last two periods. Males, females and housewives in the stage with young children also thought their spouses understood them less well than did their older

counterparts without children. And, interestingly, this was true of males in the newly established couple period as compared with males in the aging family stage.

This same statistically significant difference between first and last family stages also appeared among males in satisfaction with family life. On this indicator, the presence of young children, although the differences were not significant, was somewhat of a plus for males as compared with males in the other child-present periods. Males in these latter stages were also significantly less satisfied than males in stage seven. On satisfaction with family life there were no significant stage differences for males.

Instrumental Resources. The trends on the availability of instrumental resources in the various periods over the family life cycle are similar to those in sentimental resources occur. Instrumental resources tend to be low when sentimental resources are, making the child-present periods deficit years in both areas. Thus, they are particularly difficult years. There is general dissatisfaction among the sample respondents in the child-present years with living standards, accompanied by money problems. And, what we had not hypothesized, the persons in newly established couples also showed significant dissatisfaction with instrumental resources. Thus, respondents in prior periods were significantly less satisfied on their standard of living than persons in the middle and aging years of marriage. Persons in the initial years of marriage were also especially unhappy with their living quarters. They scored significantly lower than respondents in the adolescent, children leaving, post parental years and aging period on adequacy of their

living quarters. The earliest years of child-rearing also are difficult with respect to quality of housing. Again, persons in the middle and retirement years score significantly higher than the persons with children under thirteen years of age.

Not surprisingly, unhappiness with living standards and housing is associated with money troubles. Persons in all the stages prior to the two last stages disagree significantly more with their spouses on spending decisions. But on financial worries, it is the child-present years before children start to leave home that are most problematic. In those years, persons are significantly more worried than persons in the middle and aging years.

The child-present and launching years are periods of significantly lower income per family member than the middle and aging periods and the initial period. Even persons in the child-leaving period are themselves significantly better off on income per family member than persons with children in the earlier periods. Persons in the launching period are not as well off, however, as persons in the first and two last family periods.

It does appear, however, that the general dissatisfaction with financial resources of persons in the establishment years of marriage is not due to lack of current income because income is relatively high during this stage.

Life Cycle Status Variations When we turn to the class, gender and wives' employment status groups, the same patterns hold as in the general sample. The differences, however, are more extensive among males than among females. Let us examine expressive resources first. Married males in Stage 7 and occasionally in Stage 6 report more companionship, under-

standing, and family life satisfaction than do married males in earlier stages. Married women also report greater levels of most of these resources by the time they are in the later statges, although these increases are significant only for housewives. Interestingly, levels of satisfaction do not differ much in the group comparisons. Only family life satisfaction, and only for the married men as a whole, varies across stages, with the highest level reached in the last stage. Marital satisfaction does not differ over the life cycle for any status group, even though it is higher in the last stage than in the childrearing years for the sample as a whole.

The only expressive resource compared for single mothers across the life cycle is family life satisfaction, and it does not change appreciably over time. There are also few stage differences among White or Blue Collar husbands. White Collar husbands in Stage 1 report more companionship with spouses than do White Collar husbands in Stage 4. Blue Collar husbands in Stages 6 and 7 report that they understand their spouses more than do Blue Collar husbands in Stage 2. Generally, however, expressive resources other than satisfaction with marriage and family life go up after the children have all left home, but significantly so only for males and for housewives.

Looking at instrumental resources over the family stages, we also find considerable differences among men. In all stages through the launching period, they are significantly less satisfied with their standard of living and they disagree more with their wives on spending decisions than do males in the post-parental periods. Men also are significantly better off with respect to income, and number of financial worries in later

stages compared with earlier ones.

The female categories show similar if not as many differences. Women who are in the initial marriage years or who have children younger than thirteen are less satisfied with their standard of living than women in the retirement years of family life. Housewives with pre-schoolers are less happy than their counterparts in the two last periods. And single parents females with children present are less satisfied than those whose children are leaving home.

When it comes to goodness of housing, it is women in the first three stages who are less satisfied than women in the last two stages of family life. Women just starting out in marriage are particularly dissatisfied. They see their housing as less good than women with adolescents and children who are leaving home as well as women in the middle and aging years. Single female parents with primary school aged children also see their housing as less good than single female parents whose children are leaving home.

With respect to financial worries, more women with pre-school or children in the early grades worry than do women in the aging years. Among housewives, the significant difference is between housewives with pre-schoolers and housewives in the middle years of family life. Disagreements on spending are more common among women in the early years of marriage and through all the child present years than women in the aging years. And more housewives with preschoolers have spending squabbles than do their counterparts in the middle years.

Finally, on income per family member, women with children present tend to be worse off than women in child absent stages. This trend also

holds for employed females. Among housewives, it is women in the middle years that are significantly better off than housewives in all other periods except childless wives who are few in number. Single female parents whose children are leaving home do better financially than do single female parents with children in earlier stages.

Status Differences within Stages

We now compare groups differing on occupation, gender, employmen status of women and presence of husbands within stages on the vartious indicators. These findings provide evidence concerning the hypothesized lesser satisfaction in the child-present years among females than males, Blue Collar than White Collar males, housewives than employed wives, and single mothers than married mothers.

The findings begin with occupational differences. The differences here are primarily in the area of sentimental-expressive resources. The reason for the fewer differences in the instrumental resources area may be the result of overlap in incomes between the two groups. There were no significant differences between White Collar and Blue Collar men in income per family member over the stages. On the differences that did appear, more White Collar workers scored higher on satisfaction than Blue Collar workers. On adequacy of housing this difference appeared among workers whose children were adolescents and those in the retirement years. Blue Collar workers also scored higher on disagreements over spending in the former stage.

The differences in the area of sentimental-expressive resources

appeared in the child-present periods as hypothesized and also in the established and retirement years of marriage. Thus, Blue Collar men with primary school-aged children along with their peers whose children were leaving home were less happy in their marriages. Those in the latter stage along with those with adolescents were also less satisfied with their family life as a whole. Blue Collar men were also less content with the companionship of their spouses when they had adolescents and at the initial and final stages of marriage. And those in these last years were also less satisfied with spouses' understanding.

There were no gender differences on instrumental resources except for income per family member. Since the females in the sample included married as well as single parents, we would expect few income differences. In the initial stages, male respondents had less income but at the stage when children were leaving home, they had more. Women as hypothesized had fewer sentimental resources in the child-present years. During the child-bearing years when their oldest child was a pre-schooler, women were less satisfied than men with their marriages and their family life. Women with adolescents and those in the retirement years were also less satisfied with their family life. During the stages with adolescents and when children were leaving home, women also felt their spouses understood them less well than did men.

The differences when we compared married women who were employed with those who were housewives suggested that in 1978 employment added to child-rearing strains with respect to marriage during the periods when there were adolescents or children were leaving home. Employed women were also less satisfied on this measure when

starting their marriages. They were, however, significantly more satisfied with their family life in the period when there were preschoolers.

Our last group comparisons are between married mothers and single-parent mothers. The comparisons are restricted to relevant indicators in the child-present periods. There are a number of differences. This is particularly true in the area of adequacy of instrumental resources given their significantly lesser income per family member in all stages. Surprisingly, however, despite their less robust financial situation, single mothers do not report worrying significantly more than married mothers, as would be expected. Satisfaction with standard of living is significantly less among single mothers whose children have not yet entered adolescence. Single mothers at all stages except when their oldest children are in the primary grades view their housing as less adequate. Associated with these deficits in instrumental resources are sentimental resources inadequacies. Thus single mothers are less satisfied with their family life in all the periods analyzed.

Discussion

Comparison of results with earlier findings. The analyses of data from the 1978 Quality of Life national survey show some interesting differences from the results of studies done in the mid 1950's or early 1960's (Aldous and Hill, 1969: 7-8, Tables 1-3). The most striking change is the perception of couples in the Establishment Stage of fewer

expressive and financial resources than was true of these couples in the earlier historical period. In that era, relevant studies showed two peaks in satisfaction--the Establishment Stage and the Postparental Stage. With the statistical tests the Quality of Life data set allowed, it is respondents in the Postparental and Aging Stages of family life that appear to be significantly more contented than the earlier stages. Our hypothesized curvilinear trend does not appear. Instead, the trend is a J curve. Scores are relatively flat in the first five stages until there is a peak at the final two stages. The recently married are generally more satisfied with their sentimental resources than those with children but not significantly so in statistical terms. On financial resources like income per family member, however, they are clearly better off than those with children at home.

Then why, we may ask, are they not as contented as those in the last two stages? Our answer can be only speculative. It may lie, however, in the rise in the divorce rate in the years since the earlier studies were done. Respondents in the Establishment Stage in 1978 would be more apt to divorce than those in the 1950's and early 1960's. Thus they may have been more aware of marital discontent. This awareness could have affected their responses. Couples in the middle years did relatively well in financial and sentimental resources, as such couples had in the earlier years. And elderly couples, thanks to indexing of social security payments to the cost of living, are doing better financially than their peers in the earlier years. (Preston, 1984). They continued to maintain their contentment with their sentimenal resources, no longer as much in

jeopardy due to financial difficulties.

As at the earlier time, the presence of children depletes expressive and financial resources for their parents. The big change, according to the 1978 data, is the following. Couples in the Establishment Stage who stay married long enough to have children may lack the build-up of resources in the first stage that could buffer the loss of financial and sentimental assets in the child-present stages.

Status Group Comparisons

The comparison within stages of respondents differing on gender, male occupation, and female work status as well as mothers' marital status produced findings generally consistent with our hypotheses except for women's work status. Men in the child-present stages with their generally lesser nurturant and socialization responsibilities did report themselves as having more expressive resources than women. White Collar men, even though their incomes per family member were not significantly higher than Blue Collar men, tended to have significantly more expressive resources. The significant differences showed up on particular indicators in all stages except the Childbearing and Postparental Stages. Married mothers also, as we expected, reported themselves better off financially and with respect to the quality of family life than single mothers during the stressful, childbearing stages.

What we had not expected was the greater satisfaction of married housewives as compared with married employed women. It was apparent

from the generally nonsignificant differences on income per family member that employed women's financial contributions were enabling their families to have the same monetary resources as did the housewives' families. But these findings suggest that the women working for wages had little choice in the matter. If this is the case, it may account for their lesser marital satisfaction in the adolescent and launching years. They were, however, as we hypothesized, more satisfied with their family life in the child-bearing period. Apparently, having alternative roles to child care in this stage was a plus for employed mothers.

CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY

The family life cycle analyses of the 1978 quality of Life national data set did indicate that there had been changes since comparable studies 15 to 20 years earlier. The child-present stages continued to be deficit stages in terms of resources but the Establishment Stage appeared to have a smaller surplus than previously. Decomposing the sample on gender, occupation and marital statuses helped to specify which groups are particularly liable to instrumental and expressive deficits and surpluses in which stages. Despite the cross-sectional nature of the study, the analyses present a picture of historical change along with stage specific perceptions of well-being according to status of the respondent.

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	All Married Rs	Married Men	Married Women	Employed Wives	Housewives	Single Mothers	White Collar Husbands	Blue Collar Husbands
Marital Satisfaction	7>2-5	None	None	None	None	-	None	None
Companionship With Spouse	6>2,5 7>2-5	6>5 7>2-5	7>2	None	7>2	-	1>4	None
R Understanding Spouse	5>2 6>1-3 7>1-5	6>1-3 7>1-3	6>2 7>2-3	None	6>2 7>2	-	None	6>2 7>2
Spouse Understanding R	6>2 7>1-5	7>1-3	6>2 7>2	None	6>2 7>2	-	None	None
Family Life Satisfaction	7>1,3-6	7>1,3-5	None	None	None	None	None	None
Income Per Member	1>2-5 5>3-4 6>1-5 7>2-5	1>2-5 5>4 6>1-5 7>2-4	1>2-4,7 6>2-5,7 7>3-5	1>2-5,7 6>2-5,7	1>3 6>2-5,7	5>2-4	1>2-4 6>2-5 7>2-5	1>2-4 6>2-5,7
No Financial Worries	5>2 6>2-4 7>2-4	6>2-4 7>2	7>2-3	None	6>2	None	6>1-2	6>2
Satisfaction With Living Standard	6>1-5 7>1-5	6>1-4 7>1-5	6>2 7>1-3	None	6>2 7>2	5>2-4	6>2	6>1 7>1
Housing Adequacy	4>1 5>1 6>1-3 7>1-3	7>1	4>1 5>1 6>1-2 7>1-3	None	None	5>3	None	None
Agree On Spending	5>2 6>1-5 7>1-5	6>1-5 7>1-5	6>2 7>1-5	None	5>2 6>2 7>2	-	None	1>2 7>2

R = Respondent

Figure 1: ALL MARRIED RESPONDENTS

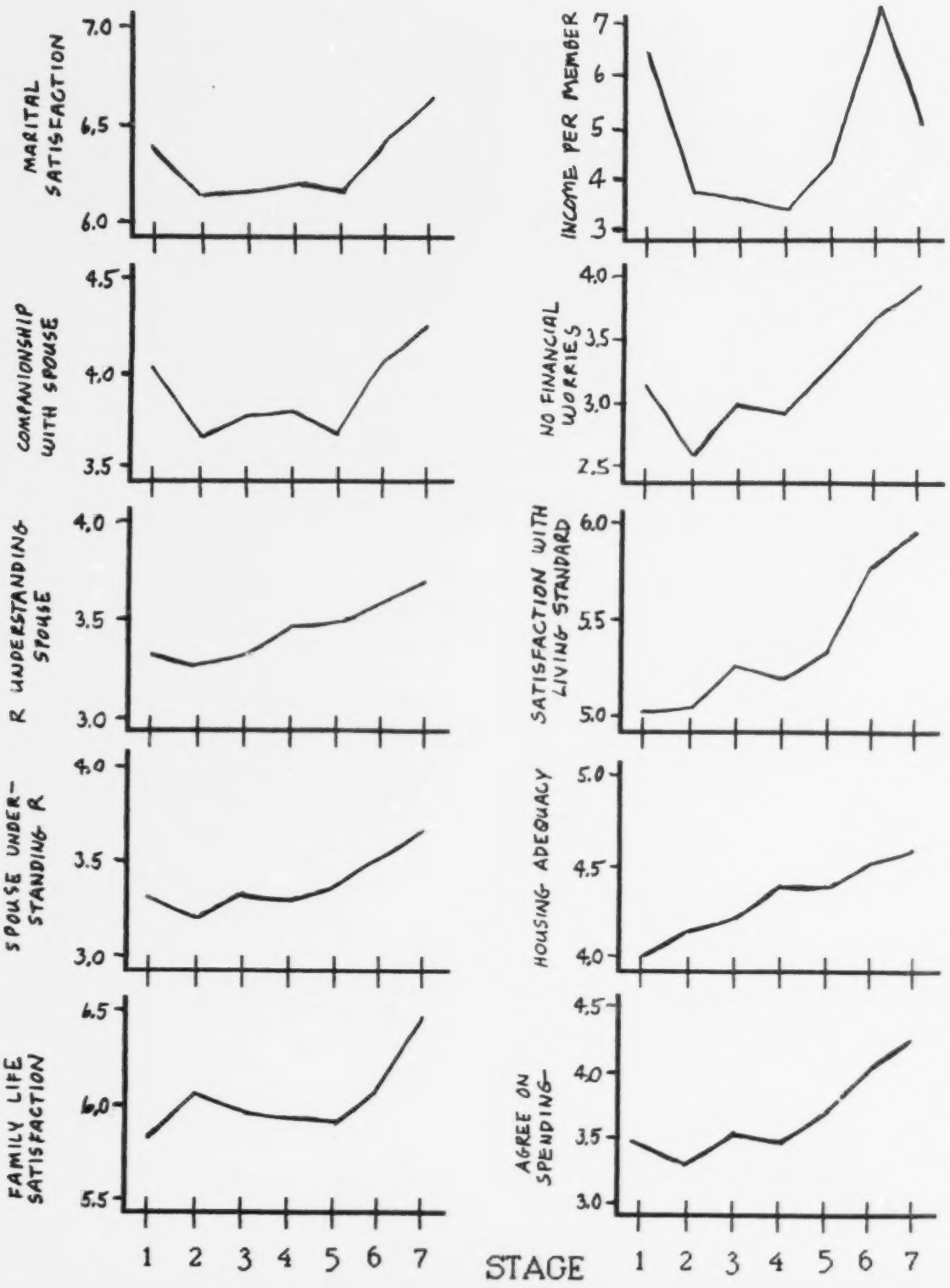

Figure 2: HUSBANDS AND WIVES

(———) (------)

* = significant differences ($p < .05$) between spouses within stages

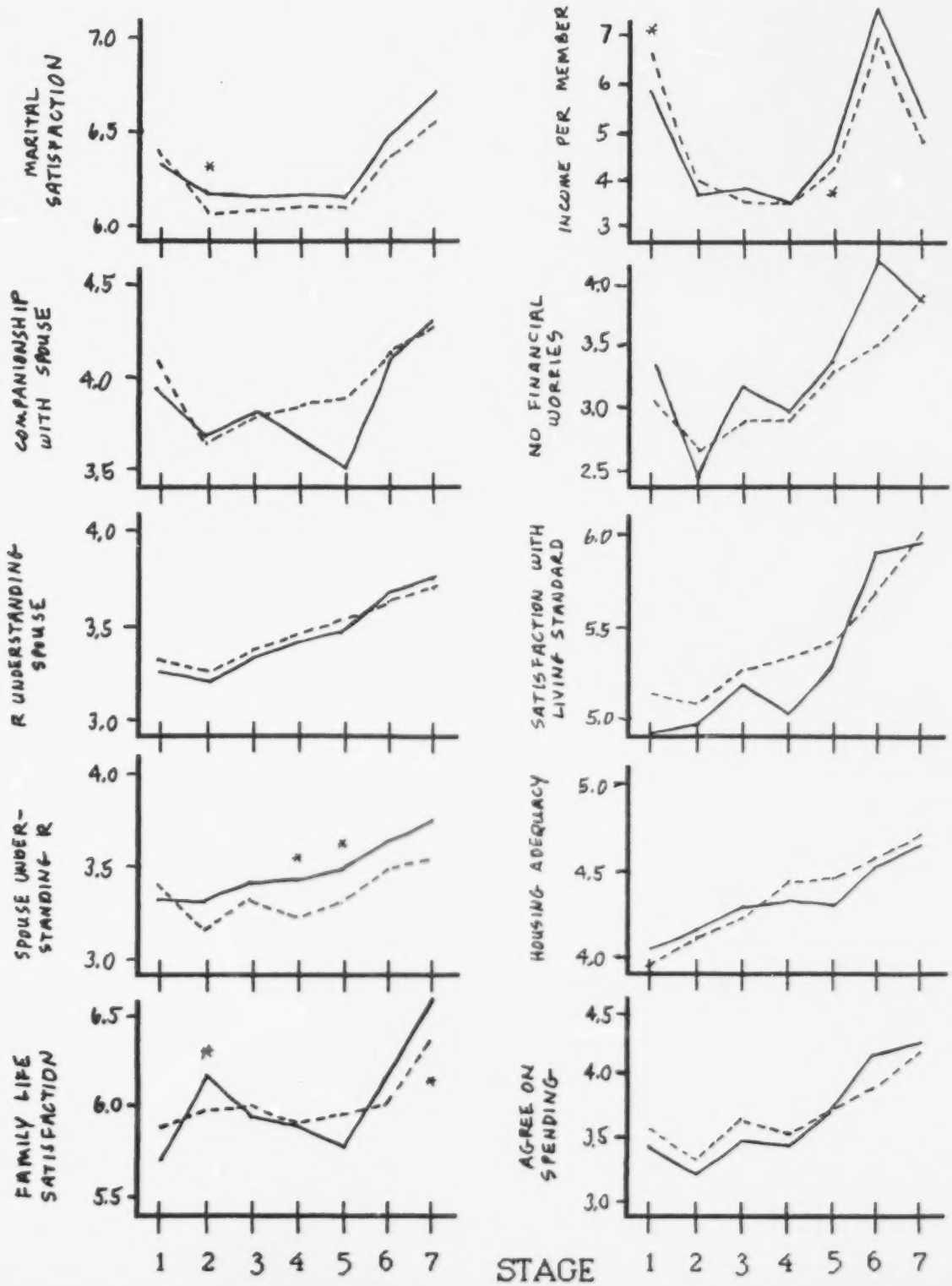

Figure 3: Employed Wives, Housewives, and Single Mothers
(————————) (--------) (~~~~~~~~)

* = Significant differences ($p < .05$) between employed wives and housewives within stages

θ = Significant differences ($p < .05$) between single and married mothers within stages

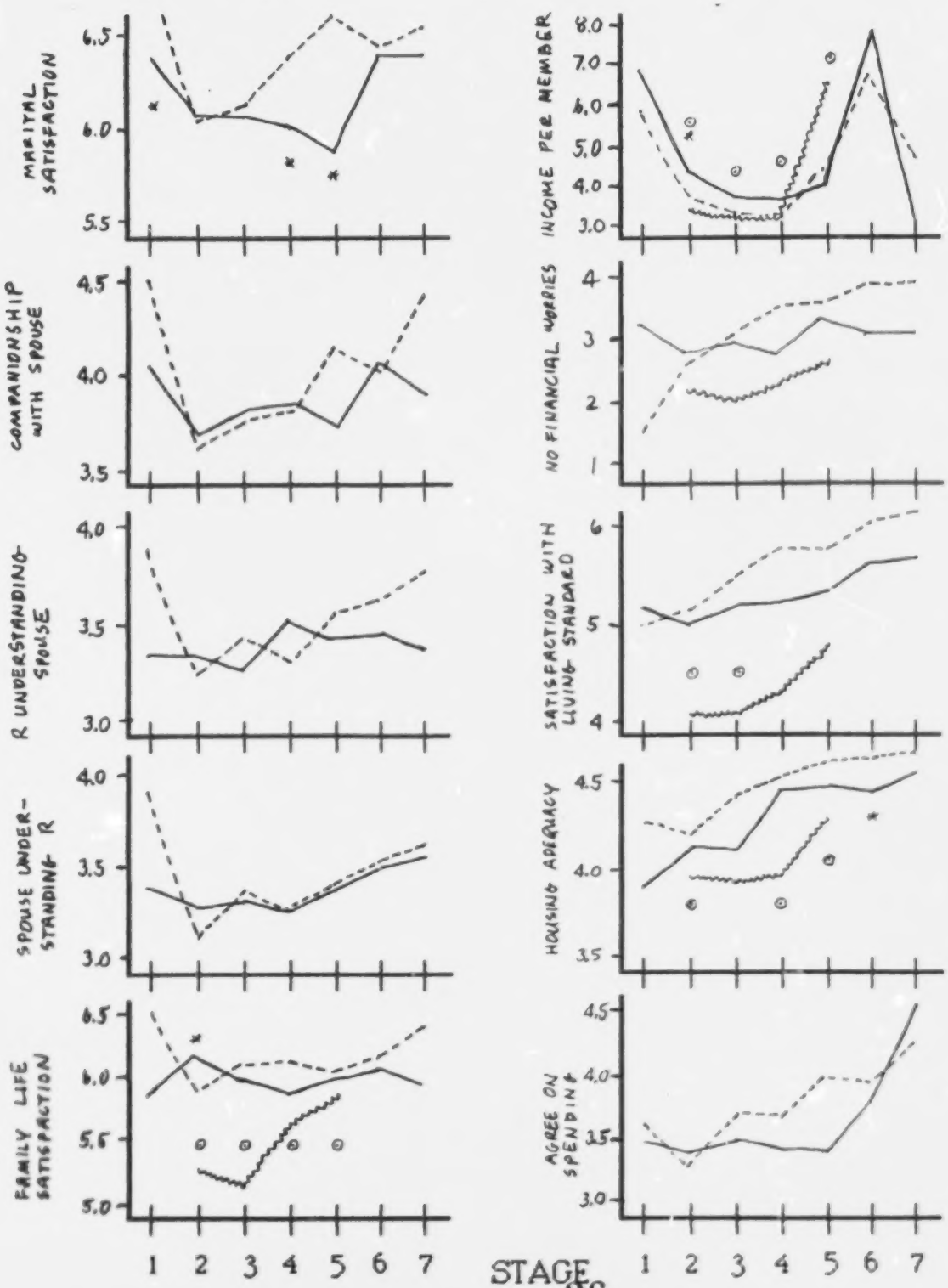

Figure 4: White Collar vs Blue Collar Husbands

(————) (---------)

* = Significant differences ($p < .05$) between status groups within stages.

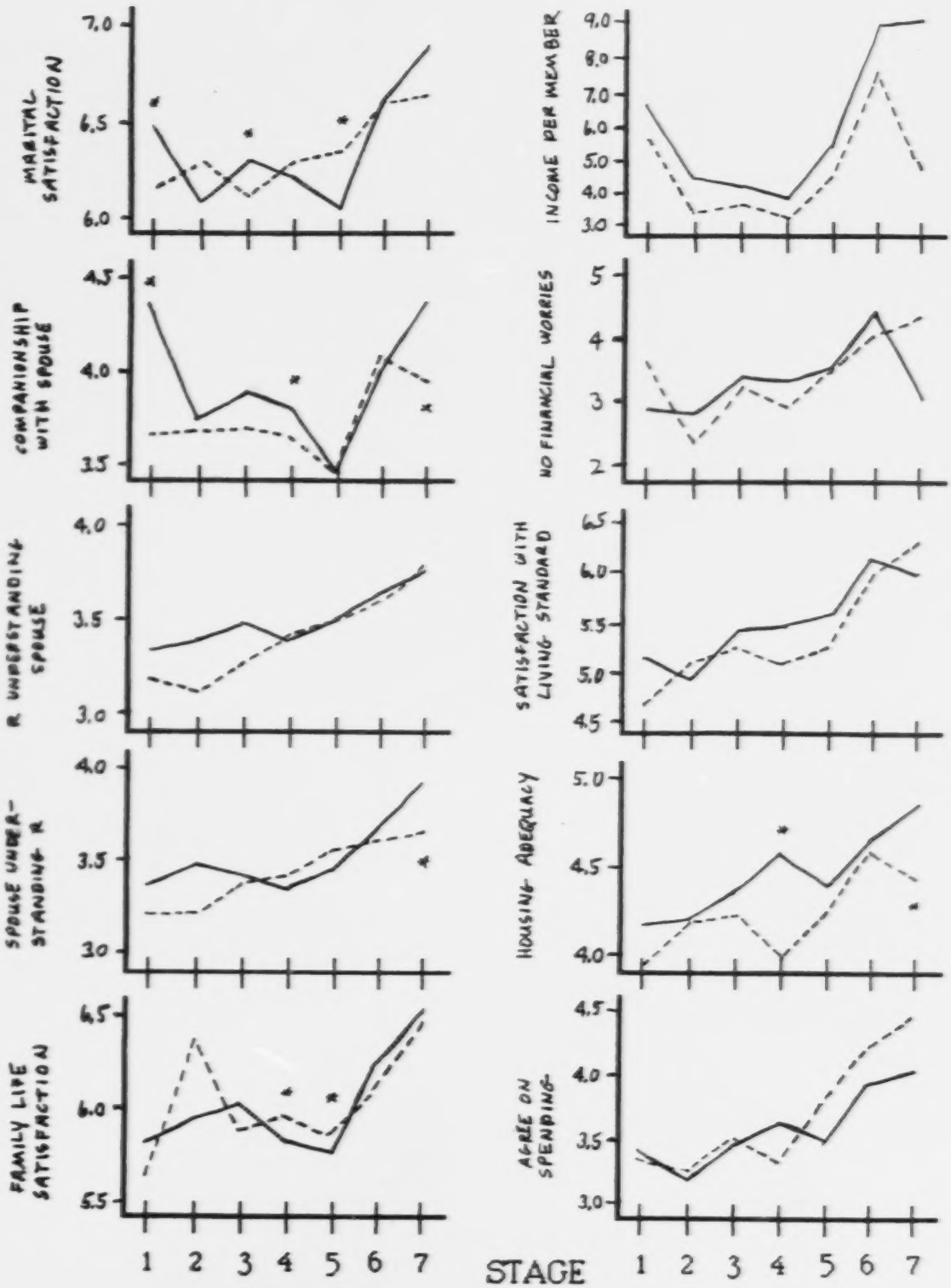

TABLE 1

FAMILY LIFE CYCLE STAGES BASED ON THE 1978 QUALITY OF LIFE DATA SET

Stage 1:	Newly Established Marriages - Respondents married less than six years with no children.
Stage 2	Childbearing families - Respondents with child(ren) and oldest child less than six years of age.
Stage 3:	Families with school-aged children - Respondents with the oldest child between six and twelve years of age.
Stage 4:	Families with adolescents - Respondents with an oldest child between thirteen and eighteen years of age.
Stage 5:	Families with young adults - Respondents with some child(ren) at home and with other child(ren) not at home.
Stage 6:	Postparental Families - Married respondents less than 65 years of age with child(ren) no longer at home
Stage 7:	Aging families - Married respondents 65 and over with child(ren) no longer at home.

TABLE 2

SAMPLE MEAN AGE AND MEAN LENGTH OF MARRIAGE OVER THE FAMILY LIFE CYCLE STAGES

Stage	N	Mean Age of Respondent	Mean Length of Marriage in years
1	143	24.5	2.1
2	221	27.3	5.9
3	309	33.4	11.6
4	181	39.4	17.7
5	306	48.6	27.0
6	300	56.1	34.1
7	178	71.3	45.3

APPENDIX A

OPERATIONALIZATION OF STUDY VARIABLES*

Background Variables. Social Class

Occupations were categorized according to the 1970 U.S. Census classification scheme (Priebe, Henkel and Greene, 1972).

White Collar - Professional, technical and kindred workers, managers and administrators except farm sales workers; and clerical and kindred workers.

Blue Collar - Craftsmen and kindred workers; operatives except transport; transport equipment operatives; laborers, except farm; farmers and farm managers; farm laborers and farm foremen; cleaning service workers, and private household workers.

Employment Status

Employed - Anyone working for pay, either full-time or part-time (289: Table 9-1).

Not employed - retired, unemployed, housewives and students

Dependent Variables Satisfaction with Spousal Companionship

"How much companionship do you and your spouse have -- how often do you do things together?" all the time, very often, often, sometimes or hardly ever? 1 (hardly ever) to 5 (all the time)

*Unless otherwise noted, all reference are to Campbell, Converse and Rodgers, 1976. Where necessary, scores were recoded so that higher scores always represented more positive categories.

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Marital Satisfaction

"All things considered how satisfied are you with your marriage?" Scores ranged from 1 (completely dissatisfied) to 7 (completely satisfied) (322-324, Table 10-2).

Spouse's Degree of Understanding

"How well do you think your spouse understands you -- your feelings, your likes and dislikes, and any problems you may have; do you think that (she/he) understands you very well, fairly well, not very well, or not well at all?" Scores ranged from 1 (not well at all) to 5 (very well) (330, Table 10-4).

Degree of Understanding of Spouse

"And how well do you understand your spouse...? Same responses and scoring as above (331, Table 10-4).

Satisfaction with Family Life

All things considered, how satisfied are you with your family life -- the time you spend and the things you do with members of your family?" Scores ranged from 1 (completely dissatisfied) to 7 (completely satisfied). (337, Table 10-7).

Couple Disagreements on Spending - Family Instrumental Resources

"How often do you disagree with your spouse about how much money to spend on various things -- never, rarely, sometimes, often, or very often?" Scores ranged from 1, (very often) to 5 (never) (330, Table 10-4).

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Worries About Money

"Do you every worry that your total family income will not be enough to meet your family's expenses and bills?" Scores ranged from 1 (all the time) to 5 (never) (546)

Satisfaction With Family's Standard of Living

"The things people have -- housing, car, furniture, recreation and the like...make up their standard of living. How satisfied are you with your standard of living?" Scores ranged from 1 (completely dissatisfied) to 7 (completely satisfied) (546)

Satisfaction with Housing

"Would you say that as a place for you (and your family) to live, this (house, apartment, mobile home, etc...) is very good, fairly good, neither good nor bad, not very good, not good at all? 1 (not good at all) to 5 (very good) (Campbell and Converse, 1980: 26-27).

Income Per Family Member

Total family income divided by the number of family members living at home. Total family income was divided into categories scored from 1 to 26. One equalled no income or less; 2 ($1.-$1,999); beginning with 3 ($2,000-$2,999), the increments of income increased by $999 to 10 ($9,000-$9,999); from 11 ($10,000-$11,999) to 15 ($18,000-$19,999), the increments were $1,999; categories 16 ($20,000-$22,999) and 17 ($23,000 to $25,999 had increments of $2,999; 18 ($26,000-$29,999); from 19 ($30,000-$34,999) to 22 ($45,000-$49,999), the increments were $4,999; 23 ($50,000-$56,999); 24 ($57,000-$63,999); 25 ($64,000-$79,999); 26 ($80,000 and over)(Campbell and Converse, 1980:178).

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